



October 22, 2004



Fifteen-year prison sentence for buying a handgun from an undercover detective

A federal judge today sentenced **Brian M. Paige**, of Providence, to 15 years in federal prison for buying a handgun from an undercover detective. Paige, who has prior convictions for robbery and assault, was sentenced as an Armed Career Criminal.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed today in U.S. District Court Providence. Paige, 29, most recently of 36 Gillen Street, has been detained since his arrest in July 2003.

In October 2003, Paige pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said that the government could prove that, on July 1, 2003, Paige contacted an agent of the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)**, believing that he could help Paige buy a handgun.

The agent arranged for a **Rhode Island State Police** detective to pose as the seller of the gun. The detective met Paige in a parking lot on Charles Street in Providence, where the detective sold Paige a .25 caliber, semi-automatic pistol for \$161. A team of detectives then arrested Paige.

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Paige has at least four prior convictions for violent felonies. A defendant with three or more such convictions who commits a firearms offense is considered an Armed Career Criminal under federal law and is subject to a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Donald C. Lockhart represented the government at the sentencing.

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